

Paretsky, Sara

V.I. (Vic to her friends) Warshawski, Private Investigator, tackles crime and corruption in Chicago.

***Indemnity Only (1982)** - When hired to locate a young woman, Vic comes across the body of her boyfriend, a crooked union, and an insurance scam.

Deadlock (1984) - V.I.'s beloved cousin is dead, possibly pushed off a rain-slick pier on Chicago's waterfront. Vic investigates and becomes involved in criminal activities on the shipping lines.

Bitter Medicine (1987) - Investigating a close friend's death in a local hospital emergency room involves Vic in a chain reaction of murder and violence.

Rich, Virginia

Mrs. Eugenia Potte, amateur sleuth and chef extraordinaire

The Cooking School Murders (1982) - A stabbing, an apparent suicide and an accidental drowning disrupt a gourmet cooking class and Mrs. Potter suspects all is not as it seems.

The Baked Bean Supper Murders (1983) - The annual baked bean supper is the scene and Mrs. Potter is uneasy about the deaths of two dear friends, seemingly by accident.

The Nantucket Diet Murders (1985) - Mrs. Potter is welcomed back home by a group of friends who are under the spell of the new charismatic diet doctor. Strange events begin to occur and Eugenia must investigate.

* first in the series

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Female Sleuths By Women Writers



Female Sleuths by Women Writers was compiled by Carol Gaines, ??? Librarian at the Laurens County Library, for the South Carolina State Library Adult Services Advisory Committee.

Christie, Agatha

"There is no detective in England equal to a spinster lady of uncertain age with plenty of time on her hands."
- Miss Jane Marple

*Murder at the Vicarage (1930) - Miss Marple is curious when two people confess to the murder to the disliked Col. Protheroe.

The Moving Finger (1942) - When anonymous obscene letters cause a suicide in the quiet town of Lymstock, Miss Marple helps find the guilty party.

At Bertram's Hotel (1965) - Miss Marple is staying at the respectable London hotel when an elderly absent-minded clergyman vanishes and she must cooperate with a clever Chief Inspector to bring the case to a close.

Cross, Amanda

(Pseud. of Carolyn Heilbrun) - Kate Fansler, Professor at a New York university, an amateur sleuth

*In the Last Analysis (1964) - Plenty of academic atmosphere as Kate investigates the murder of a student.

The James Joyce Murders (1967) - Kate is in the Berkshires unraveling the papers of a distinguished publisher who first introduced Joyce's writings to America when a murder takes place.

A Trap for Fools (1989) - Kate is asked by her superiors to determine whether a particularly unpopular professor committed suicide or was murdered.

Gilman, Dorothy

Mrs. Emily Pollifax, widowed grandmother, courier for the CIA

*The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax (1966) - Advised that a job will cure her depression, Mrs. Pollifax applies for a job with the CIA as a spy and soon finds herself in Mexico on her first case as a courier.

The Amazing Mrs. Pollifax (1970) - Emily is off to Istanbul to rescue a beautiful female spy.

Mrs. Pollifax and the Hong Kong Buddha (1985) - Emily is in Hong Kong to contact a young Chinese, whom she rescued in a previous mission, but instead turns up a group of terrorists planning to destroy the city.

Grafton, Sue

Kinsey Milhone, Private Investigator, former cop, operates out of a small California town.

B is for Burglar (1985) - Looking for a missing widow in a \$12,000 lynx coat soon goes from puzzling to sinister when a house is torched, worthless papers are burgled and the coat comes back without the owner.

E is for Evidence (1988) - While Kinsey is investigating a possible case of industrial arson, a mysterious \$5,000 appears in her bank account, making it look as if she is on the take. Murders and bombings obstruct her path as she tries to clear herself.

G is for Gumshoe (1990) - Kinsey is pursued by a hit man while she tracks down a client's elderly mother and unearths grisly family secrets along the way.

Muller, Marcia

Sharon McCone, private detective in San Francisco

Leave a Message for Willie (1984) - Sharon must juggle a budding romance with a case involving the local flea markets, stolen Torahs and survivalists making weapons deals, all in the colorful San Francisco atmosphere.

There's Something in a Sunday (1989) - Hired to follow a man on his day off, things begin to go wrong as the shirtmaker who hired her is murdered, the man she follows disappears, and suspicious goings-on are reported at the ranch where the missing man works.

O'Donnell, Lillian

Detective Norah Mulcahaney, NYPD

The Children's Zoo (1981) - Animals in the Central Park Zoo are savagely killed, along with their guard, and several people are robbed and murdered in their apartments.

A Good Night to Kill (1988) - Two murders take place in Manhattan on the night of a major snowstorm and Mulcahaney is put in charge of both cases.

The Other Side of the Door (1987) - In this work, Norah plays somewhat of a bit part, advising Detective Gary Reissig, a sometimes partner, on a muddled case.